

June 10, 2010

1400 CST

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 29**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: June 10, 2010

Reporting Period: June 10, 2010 1300 – June 11, 2010 1300

Forecast

- The nearshore oil forecast created by NOAA on 6/9/10 at 2100 CDT for 6/10/10 at 1200 CDT (Figure 1) indicates that the main part of the oil slick will be east of Louisiana. Persistent onshore winds out of the southeast are forecast to remain through Friday which will continue to push the oil slick northward Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. The persistent southeasterly winds are also pushing the oil slick towards the Chandeleur Islands and Breton Sound. Current models show that a westward alongshore current is developing which will limit the eastward extent of the oil slick.
- The offshore oil forecast created by NOAA on 6/9/10 at 1900 CDT for 6/10/10 at 1200 CDT (Figure 2). An oily sheen still remains in an eddy on the northern edge of the Loop Current but some is moving southerly along the eastern edge of this eddy and some may become entrained in an eddy northeast of the Loop Current. NOAA overflights conducted through the Florida Strait reported no visible oil slick.

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit on the review of incoming water and sediment quality monitoring data, including results from water samples.
- Providing technical review of dispersants and sediment toxicity testing results in coordination with the REOC Environmental Unit.
- Attending regular meetings and calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.
- Providing information to staff at HQ on QwikLite bioluminescent dinoflagellate toxicity testing.
- Attending bi-weekly interagency conference call this afternoon to continue coordination of sampling efforts amongst federal, state, and local agencies.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.
- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Updated the Shoreline Coastal Assessment Team (SCAT) and spill trajectory data.

NPDES

- Coordinated with 6EN on intake structures in LA and TX potentially impacted by oil spill.
- NPDES Permits and TMDL Branch continues to be available to provide technical assistance as needed.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Following an interagency meeting on June 8, 2010, to discuss an interim monitoring plan for the six approved sections, Coastal Section staff worked extensively with OW to develop comments. The primary concern expressed at this point relates to insuring provisions for monitoring success of the berms
- Ongoing discussions with OCPD & OGC regarding authorizations that might apply to the proposed dredged material stockpile areas.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- Conducted extensive coordination with OW resulting in recommendation to the Corps to deny the application for rock dikes in five tidal passes along the Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish barrier island chain. This recommendation is based on the potential for significant near- and long-term impacts on sediment processes, erosion rates, and fisheries. While the applicant has provided no assessment of such impacts, experience with rock projects elsewhere in coastal Louisiana suggests that there could be serious adverse unintended impacts to the aquatic environment, contrary to the goal of the project.

OW Ecological Impact Analyses:

- Follow up discussions are underway regarding the June 5, 2010, meeting with scientific experts to discuss marsh protection and marsh remediation alternatives and techniques.
- Ongoing coordination, through OW, with the Association of National Estuary Programs and NEP Directors regarding baseline characterization data, habitat and restoration priorities, and a request to OWOW to provide a bridge between the NRDA process and the NEPs.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Continued coordination between OW, Region 4, and Region 6 regarding dredged material and ocean dumping sites potentially impacted by the oil spill.
- Shoaling and flocculation are being reported in SW Pass and three hopper dredges are working in the pass. The Corps is considering redirecting two of these dredges to work on the sand berm project.
- The Corps is employing oil detection kits on the dredges, a technique coordinated with EPA and Corps research facilities during the 2008 Mississippi River oil spill. In addition, new ship decontamination sites have been established in the lower Mississippi River and Southwest Pass which may be within the area of influence of the EPA-designated ocean disposal site.
- Discussions are underway regarding marsh remediation efforts and initial agency coordination is occurring regarding monitoring the long-term landscape-scale coastal habitat impacts.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- Based upon the shoreline impact assessment map (Figure 3) and the EPA OSC shoreline cleanup efforts (Table 1), there have been no changes to the list of CWPPRA projects in the vicinity of oil impacted areas since 6/9/10.

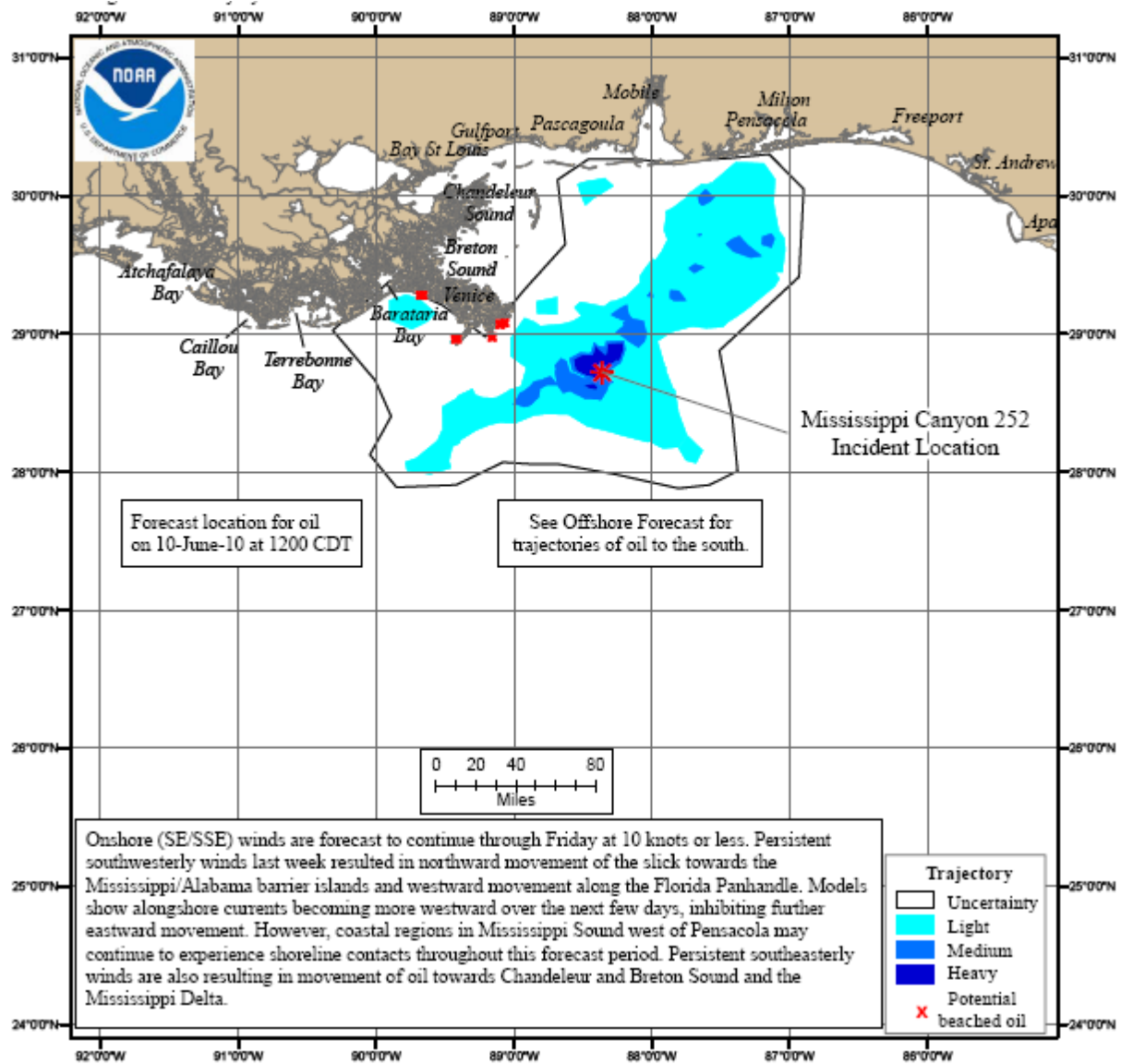


Figure 1 NOAA nearshore oil slick trajectory forecast for 6/10/10.

<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979/>

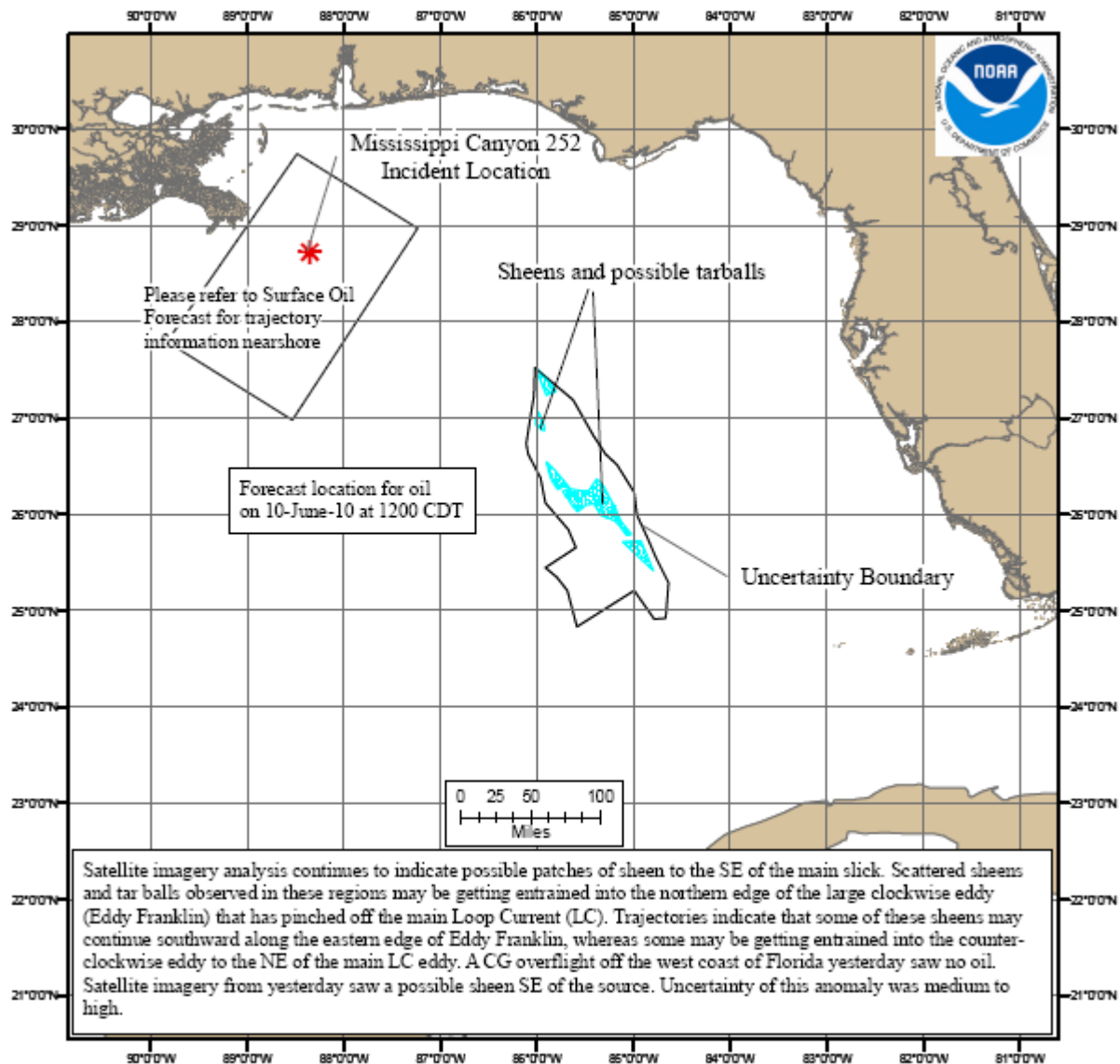


Figure 2 NOAA offshore oil slick trajectory forecast for 6/10/10.
<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979/>

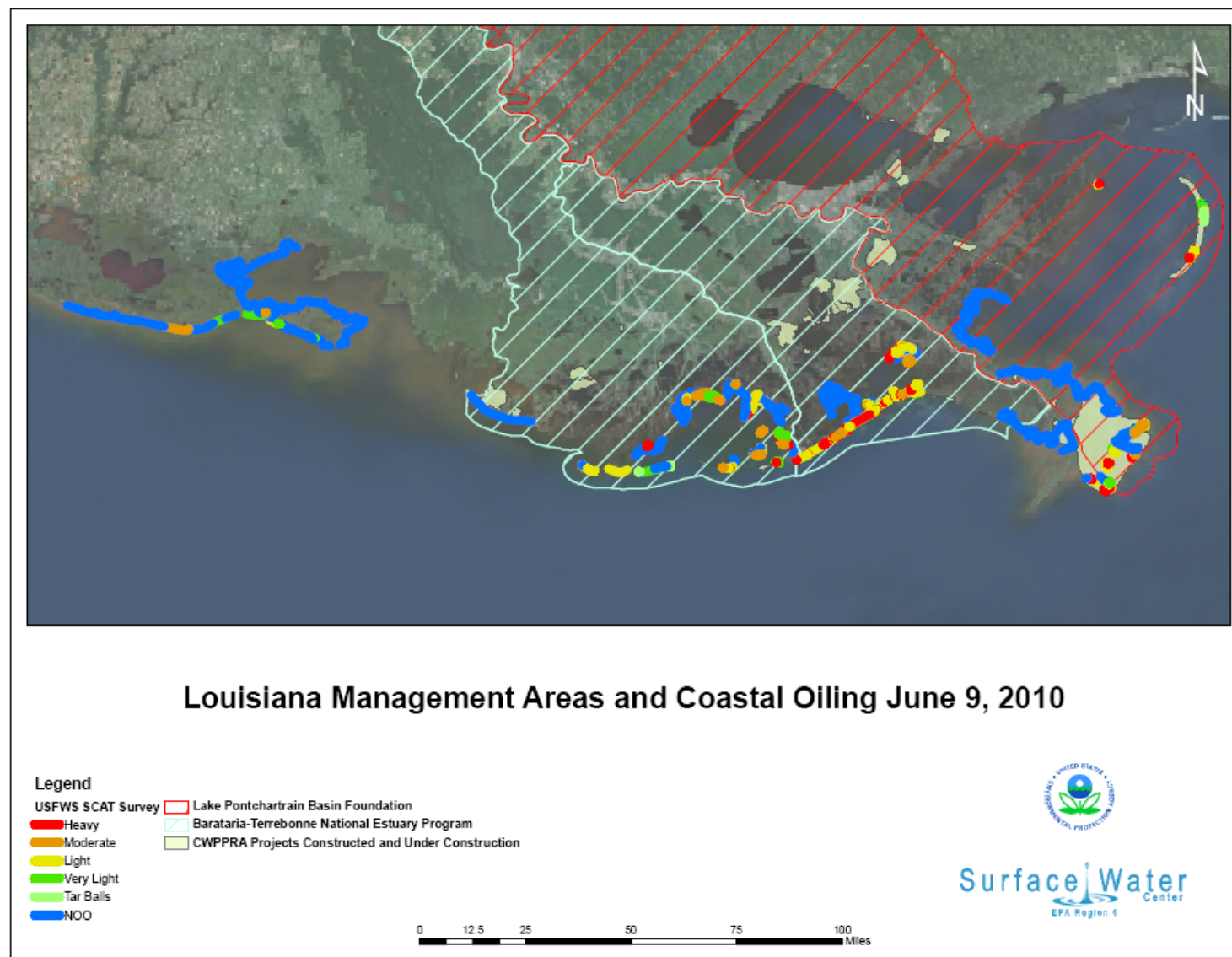


Figure 3 Oil impact assessment map including Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Lake Ponchartrain Basin Foundation boundaries, constructed CWPPRA projects and reported oiled shorelines. This map contains no data more recent than 6/7/10 due to lack of available SCAT data.

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Shoreline Impact Areas	Stage	Parish	Miles Impacted	Progress
Southpass Inner Sandbar	Venice	Plaquemines	2.78	80% complete
Pilot Bayou/Johnson Pass	Venice	Plaquemines	1.5	using containment boom
Pass a L'outre/Red Fish Bay	Venice	Plaquemines	4	70% complete
Inner Area Southpass	Venice	Plaquemines	1.49	TBD
Chandeleur Island	Hopedale	St. Bernard	7.2	100% complete
Grand Isle/Elmer's Island	Grand Isle	Jefferson	7.6	Re-Oiling; ongoing
Isle Grande Terre	Grand Isle	Plaquemines	1.77	TBD
Brush Island	Hopedale	St. Bernard	1.33	100% complete
Lake Raccourci	Fourchon	LaFourche	0.8	TBD
Chenier Au Tigre	St. Mary	Vermillion	0.7	100% complete
Trinity Island	Cocodrie	Terrebonne	0.48	100 % complete
Fourchon Beach	Fourchon	LaFourche	3.75	90% complete
Timbalier Bay	Fourchon	LaFourche	0.43	TBD
Lake Felicity	Cocodrie	Terrebonne	1	Ongoing
Marsh Island	St. Mary	Iberia	0.4	100% complete
Marsh Island	St. Mary	Iberia	0.2	100% complete

Table 1 Deepwater Horizon shoreline impacts and status of cleanup. Information provided by EPA OSC web page. Created for 6/10/10